

Message

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Sent: 9/8/2010 6:25:36 PM
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Subject: FERN Food Microbiology Course

Good afternoon,

As you know the MDPH Bureau of Laboratory Sciences is the host laboratory and the University Of Massachusetts Medical School manages the Food Emergency Response Network (FERN) Northeast Regional FERN Training Center.

Next week FERN laboratory staff and other subject matter experts will conduct hands-on laboratory training in the 4th Floor Training Laboratory. "Food Microbiology" will begin on Tuesday September 14, 2010 and end on Friday. All participants currently work in a laboratory. Attendees come from varied backgrounds in Public Health Agriculture, military and university labs.. Attendees are traveling from Alaska, California, New Mexico, Utah, Michigan, Texas, Tennessee, Virginia, North Carolina, New Jersey and several New England states. Katherine Heddaeus from the Florida Agriculture lab will be assisting with the laboratory.

The primary focus of this course is to demonstrate methods used to recover pathogens from multiple complex food matrices. Laboratory exercises will include the use of *E coli* ATCC 25922, *E coli* ATCC 35150 and *Salmonella typhimurium* ATCC 14028. BSL-2 safety practices will conform to the BMBL 5th edition. Personal protective equipment will also conform to BSL-2 requirements.

A risk assessment of all procedures used in this course has been performed and it has been determined that the risk of exposure to an infectious agents associated with this training is low.

If you would like to discuss the details of this risk assessment, or any other aspect of this course, please let me know. I am happy to answer your questions and address your concerns.

Betsy

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